

## Message Text

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71-62

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 IGA-02 AID-05

EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /071 W

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R 211338Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3427

INFO DCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

OSD ISA/NESA

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 459

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, SA, US, OTRA (HUYSER GEN)

SUBJECT: DCINCEUR GEN HUYSER CALL ON SAG DEPMINDEF PRINCE TURKI

REF (A) USDAO JIDDA 192300Z JAN 76, (B) USDAO JIDDA 192315Z JAN 76

SUMMARY: DURING A CALL BY DCINCEUR GEN HUYSER, SAG DEPMINDEF PRINCE TURKI MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: 1) THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION (MODA) WANTED TO EXTEND TO FEB 12 THE DEADLINE FOR SIGNING THE PEACE HAWK V LOA'S (REPORTED REF A); 2) THAT THE LANGUAGE IN LETTER OF INTENT (LOI'S) REQUIRING SAG TO PAY FOR TERMINATION COSTS IF CONGRESS NOT RPT NOT SAG WERE TO DISAPPROVE AN FMS CASE WAS "UNFAIR" AND THAT SAG OUGHT NOT BE LIABLE (REPORTED REF B); 3) REITERATED THE OFT-HEARD COMPLAINT ABOUT DELIVERY DELAYS OF SAG URGENT ARMS REQUIREMENTS. WE HAVE CONCURRED WITH DCINCEUR'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE PEACE HAWK V LOA'S DEADLINE AND RECONSIDERATION OF LANGUAGE OF LETTER OF INTENT. END SUMMARY.

1. AT 1300 HOURS 19 JAN 1976 DCINCEUR GEN HUYSER, SENIOR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF, BGEN AHMANN CHUSMTM DHAHRAN; EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER JESSE AND EMBASSY DATT LTC ROBERT

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TALLEY, CALLED ON SAG DEPMINDEF PRINCE TURKI AT HIS OFFICE

IN RIYADH. PRINCE TURKI OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING HE RECOGNIZED THE TIMELINESS OF GEN HUYSER'S VISIT AND WISHED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT TO RAISE SOME PROBLEMS. HE REAFFIRMED THE INTENTION OF HIS MAJESTY KING KHALID AND THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE US IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNIZATION OF THE SAUDI ARMED FORCES. THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR ARMS AND EQUIPMENT BUT THE PACE WITH WHICH THE US DEALT WITH THESE REQUESTS LEFT SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED. CONVERSELY, THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT WAS PUT UNDER TIME PRESSURE AS IN THE CASE OF THE PEACE HAWK V PROGRAM FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS ONLY 10 DAYS LEFT TO SIGN THE LOA'S. PRINCE TURKI ASKED FOR AN EXTENSION UNTIL 12 FEB, STATING THAT THE ORIGINAL DEADLINE WAS INSUFFICIENT TO GIVE THE SAG TIME TO STUDY THE LOA'S BECAUSE THIS IS A BIG PROJECT. GENERAL HUYSER ASSURED PRINCE TURKI WE WOULD GIVE THIS REQUEST OUR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

2. PRINCE TURKI THEN RAISED THE SUBJECT OF THE SAUDI REQUEST TO CONVERT TWO INFANTRY BRIGADES INTO TWO MECHANIZED BRIGADES. WITH REFERENCE TO THE ARRIVAL OF A DOD TEAM ON 24 JAN 76, HE ASKED WHETHER THAT TEAM WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE AND DISCUSS EQUIPMENT NEEDS AND SAUDI WISHES IN CHANGING EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS. GENERAL AHMANN ANSWERED WITH A QUALIFIED "YES:" THE TEAM WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS THE PROGRAM BUT WOULD HAVE TO RESOLVE ANY DIFFERENCES WITH WASHINGTON BY TELEGRAPH.

3. PRINCE TURKI NEXT RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE LETTER OF INTENT FOR URGENT ARMY MODERNIZATION EQUIPMENT WHICH CONTAINED LANGUAGE SPECIFYING THAT IF THE US CONGRESS WERE TO DISAPPROVE A PROJECT, THE SAG WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR ANY TERMINATION COSTS ALREADY INCURRED. HE SAID THIS WAS "UNFAIR;" IF THE US CONGRESS SAYS "NO" THE SAG SHOULD NOT BE HELD LIABLE. GEN HUYSER SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE A DETAILED LOOK AT THAT SECTION OF THE LOI'S AND THAT HE UNDERSTANDS PRINCE TURKI'S CONCERN.

4. MAKING A POINT HE WAS TO REPEAT SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE CONVERSATION, PRINCE TURKI SAID THAT THIS IS NOT THE SECRET

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SORT OF PROBLEM THAT SHOULD ARISE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS; IT PRESENTS THE SAG WITH THE QUESTION OF WHAT TO TELL THEIR OWN FORCES AND IT ENABLES CRITICS OF ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE US TO ASSERT THAT THIS IS THE SORT OF TREATMENT ONE CAN EXPECT FROM THE US. FURTHERMORE, IT RAISED THE QUESTION WHETHER THE USG INTENDS TO GO THROUGH WITH ASSISTING THE SAG IN THE MODERNIZATION OF ITS ARMED FORCES. GEN HUYSER EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE OF THE US

INTENT TO PROVIDE THE EQUIPMENT AND AGAIN REASSURED PRINCE TURKI THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS MATTER EXPEDITIOUSLY AND THOROUGHLY. PRINCE TURKI REFERRED TO THE GOALS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND STRESSED THAT THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT PAYS CASH FOR WHAT IT BUYS, YET THE FACT THAT SOME OF ITS REQUESTS TOOK SEVERAL YEARS COULD LEAD HIS MAJESTY, CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN TO DOUBT THE INTENTIONS OF THE USG TO FURNISH EQUIPMENT WHEN NEEDED. THE SAG WOULD NOT ASK FOR THINGS IT DID NOT NEED. HE AGAIN REFERRED TO LAGGING US PERFORMANCE DESPITE PROMISES BY SECRETARY KISSINGER, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ATHERTON AND OTHERS. HE SAID WE SHOULD FORGET THE PAST, START ANEW AND DEVELOP BETTER PROCEDURES FOR ASSURING SAUDI REQUESTS. GEN HUYSER FULLY AGREED. HE SAID WE ARE EXPERIENCING DELAYS IN OUR OWN FORCES GETTING EQUIPMENT THEY NEED AND IN SOME CASES THE SAUDI PROGRAM RECEIVED HIGHER PRIORITY THAN OUR OWN. REITERATING A POINT HE MADE SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE CONVERSATION, GEN HUYSER SAID THAT WE VALUE THE FRIENDSHIP OF SAUDI ARABIA AND HAVE EVERY INTENT TO ASSIST IT; WHEREEVER DELAYS IN EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES ARE UNAVOIDABLE, WE WILL MAKE A TIMELY EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS.

5. PURSUING THIS EARLIER THEME, PRINCE TURKI SAID THAT BOTH PARTIES WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IF THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE DISRUPTED. HE SAID THERE ARE SOME WHO ACCUSE THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT OF RUNNING AFTER THE USG FOR EQUIPMENT AND QUESTION WHY IT SHOULD DO SO WHEN OTHER GOVERNMENTS ARE RUNNING AFTER THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT TO "GIVE US WHAT WE WANT." SAYING THAT HE WANTED TO BE EQUALLY FRANK, GEN HUYSER SAID WE DO NOT SEE THIS AS A QUESTION OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT RUNNING AFTER THE US. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT IN WHICH  
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WE WERE BOTH ENGAGED AND THAT IT WAS WISE FOR THE SAG TO SELECT GOOD EQUIPMENT AND THAT IT WAS ALSO WISE FOR SAG TO SELECT US EQUIPMENT BECAUSE THERE WERE NO POLITICAL STRINGS TIED TO OUR EQUIPMENT. PRINCE TURKI AGREED, BUT AGAIN QUESTIONED THE VALUE OF GOOD EQUIPMENT WHEN IT ARRIVES LATE.

6. GEN HUYSER AGAIN REASSURED PRINCE TURKI THAT THE USG FULLY SUPPORTS THE OBJECTIVE OF MODERNIZING THE SAUDI ARABIAN ARMED FORCES BECAUSE IT RECOGNIZES THAT SAUDI ARABIA CONSTITUTES AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF STABILITY, NOT ONLY IN SAUDI ARABIA BUT IN THE REGION.

7. PRINCE TURKI SAID HE HOPED THAT GEN HUYSER WOULD PERSONALLY FOLLOW THROUGH ON ALL THESE MATTERS AND THAT HE

WOULD SUPPORT USMTM AND INCREASE THE AUTHORITY OF GEN AHMANN. GEN HUYSER ASSURED PRINCE TURKI THAT HE HAD FULL CONFIDENCE IN GEN AHMANN AND THAT HE WOULD GIVE HIS CLOSE PERSONAL ATTENTION TO AND FOLLOW THROUGH ON ALL OF PRINCE TURKI'S REQUESTS.

8. WE HAVE CONCURRED WITH THE RECOMMENDATION IN REF A THAT THE DEADLINE FOR PEACE HAWK V BE EXTENDED UNTIL FEB 12. THE EXTENSION WOULD GIVE SAG AND MODA TIME TO RESOLVE THE THORNY ISSUE OF AGENT'S FEES FOR PEACE HAWK V. ANOTHER FACTOR IS THAT MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN IS OUT OF TOUCH ON A HUNTING TRIP AND IT IS IMPROBABLE THAT ANY DECISION COULD BE TAKEN IN HIS ABSENCE. WE ALSO STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT IF AT ALL LEGALLY POSSIBLE, THE WORDING OF THE PROPOSED LETTER OF INTENT BE MODIFIED TO MEET SAUDI CONCERNS. FROM THE SAUDI PERSPECTIVE IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHY THEY SHOULD BE OBLIGED TO PAY IF ONE BRANCH OF THE USG DISAGREES WITH THE PROPOSED ACTIONS OF ANOTHER. WHILE THEY ARE COMING TO APPRECIATE THE INTRICACIES OF OUR FEDERAL SYSTEM THEY ARE NOT INCLINED TO PAY FOR IT.

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